Bhubaneswar Airport as an International Airport

*293. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the historical heritage of Orissa is one of the most sought after religious hubs in the world and the Biju Patnaik Airport Bhubaneswar fulfills all the requisites of an international airport;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for declaring this airport as an international airport so that it can receive international flights and also chartered flights to promote international tourism; and

(c) if so, what is the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which it would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. It is all known fact that historical heritage of Orissa is one of the most sought after religious hubs in the world. Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar can be considered as an International airport whenever it fulfills all the requirements such as runway length, Customs, Immigration facilities and firm commitment of commercial airlines to start international operations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has requested to declare Bhubaneshwar Airport as an International airport. However, there is no request from any national or foreign airline to introduce direct international flights from Bhubaneshwar airport at present. Therefore, there is no proposal to declare Bhubaneshwar airport as an International airport, at present.

Sale of LPG at unsubsidised prices

*294. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government owned oil companies seeking permission to sell Liquefied Petroleum Gas at unsubsidised prices to rich and middle class households;